

CONFIDENTIAL

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Korea/USSR

DATE DISTR 29 JAN 81 25X1

SUBJECT Removal of Korean Assets to the USSR

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION 25X1

1. Before the arrival of the UN forces in North Korean cities, the Communist officials in various areas of North Hamgyong Province and around Pyongyang dismantled and removed freight cars, vessels, automobiles and important machinery and shipped them to either Manchuria or the USSR. Among other articles removed were railroad rails and accessories, both government and privately owned vessels, electrical equipment and medical equipment. One of the best equipped hospitals in Korea, that of the Songjin (129-12, 40-40) High Frequency Plant, was dismantled and removed.
2. Items which were too difficult or inconvenient to move were burned or abandoned after they had been made unusable by the removal of essential parts.
3. The dismantling and shipment were handled by engineers conscripted from Pyongyang and Jonsan.
many Soviets in civilian clothes assisted with the work there.
4. Part of the transportation equipment was shipped by truck or freight car to eastern Manchuria. Part was removed to Poset, USSR, by the North Hamgyong Province Railway and the newly constructed lines to the USSR.*
5. Along the Tumen River, North Korean troops looted food and livestock, including cattle, horses, and pigs, from the local population. The natives of the region were forced to withdraw to Manchuria, but many of them escaped and made their way back towards their homes or to mountain refuges. The local food shortage in early October was critical.

Comment. The construction of an east coast railroad connecting with the USSR has been previously described.

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CLASSIFICATION

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 16 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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